

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing an electric bulletin board system that enables questions and answers among users therein, and works with an electric album service, the electric album service providing a storage area of an image to a user, comprising:

a step of storing a question sent by a user and carrying the question in a bulletin board of the electric bulletin board system;

a step of displaying the image provided for the electric album service for the user to demand the image to be carried in the bulletin board with the question;

a step of judging whether or not ~~an~~the image provided for the electric album service is permitted to be browsed by a third party when the image is demanded to be carried in the bulletin board with the question by the user;

a step of permitting to carry the image in the bulletin board when the image is permitted to be browsed by the third party; and

a step of banning from carrying the image in the bulletin board when the image is not permitted to be browsed by the third party.

2. (Previously Presented) The method for providing the electric bulletin board set forth in claim 1, wherein a link portion is provided on a display screen of the bulletin board and the image stored onto a memory area provided for the electric album service is accessed through the display screen of the bulletin board when the link portion is clicked on.

3. (Previously Presented) The method for providing the electric bulletin board set forth in claim 1, wherein the image is read out from the memory area provided for the electric album service and is carried in the bulletin board.

4. (Original) The method for providing the electric bulletin board set forth in claim 3, wherein a contracted image of the image stored onto the memory area provided for the electric album service is displayed in the bulletin board.

5. (Original) The method of providing the electric bulletin board set forth in claim 4, wherein the link portion to display an original image of the contracted image in the bulletin board is provided on the display screen when the contracted image is displayed on the display screen of the electric bulletin board and the original image is read out from the memory area provide for the electric album service and displayed in the bulletin board when the link portion is clicked on.

6. (Withdrawn) A method for providing an electric bulletin board that works with an electric album service providing a storage area of an image to a user and that enables to carry an image comprising:

a step to carry remarks and so sent respectively by a plurality of users;

a step to carry an image based upon the image stored onto the storage area provided for the electric album service in the bulletin board when the image stored onto the area provided for the electric album service is demanded to be carried in the bulletin board;

a step to display an image for a browsing when the image stored onto the area provided for the electric album service is demanded to be browsed through a link portion in the bulletin board; and

a step to save the image for the electric bulletin board, even when the image stored onto the area provided for the electric album service is erased.

7. (Withdrawn) The method of providing the electric bulletin board set forth in claim 6, wherein an image (a second image data) to be carried in the bulletin board is created from the image (a first image data) stored onto a memory area provided for the electric album service.

8. (Withdrawn) The method of providing the electric bulletin board set forth in claim 7, wherein the second image data is stored onto the storage area different from first image data.

9. (Withdrawn) The method for providing the electric bulletin board set forth in claim 7, wherein, when an image stored onto the storage area provided for the electric album service is demanded to carry in the bulletin board, the second image data is created from first image data.

10. (Withdrawn) The method for providing the electric bulletin board set forth in claim 7, wherein information (image-carried bulletin board information) indicative of the image being carried in the bulletin board is saved by being related to the first image data stored onto the memory area provide for the electric album service.

11. (Withdrawn) The method for providing the electric bulletin board set forth in claim 10, wherein the second image data is created from the first image data and an image corresponding to the second image data is carried in the bulletin board when the first image data related to image-carried bulletin board information is erased.

12. (Withdrawn) The method for providing the electric bulletin board set forth in claim 7, wherein the second image data has a smaller amount of data than the first image data.

13. (Withdrawn) The method for providing the electric bulletin board set forth in claim 12, wherein a third image data with a smaller amount of data than the first image data and a larger amount of data than the second image data is created and when an image corresponding to the second image data is carried in the bulletin board, information necessary to read out the third image data is created.

14. (Original) The method for providing the electric bulletin board set forth in claim 1, wherein according to an erase order from a user, image data stored onto an area provided for the electric album service is erased.

15. (Withdrawn) The method for providing the electric bulletin board set forth in claim 6, wherein the link portion is provided in the image for the electric bulletin board.

16. (Withdrawn) The method for providing the electric bulletin board set forth in claim 7, wherein, when the first image data stored onto the storage area provided for the electric album service is erased, an image based upon second image data is carried in the electric bulletin board.

17. (Withdrawn) A method for providing an electric bulletin board that works with an electric album service providing a storage area of an image to a user and that enables to carry an image comprising:

a step to carry remarks and so sent respectively by a plurality of users;

a step to erase the image stored in the electric album of the user when some user halts use of each service of the electric bulletin board and the electric album; and

a step to permit an image that the user carried in the electric bulletin to be displayed.

18. (Withdrawn) A method for providing an electric album service that registers an image sent by a user comprising:

a step to record an image sent by the user onto a data storage area; and

a step to erase the image recorded onto the data storage area when there is no access to an electric album from the user for more than a given period of time.

19. (Withdrawn) The method for providing the electric album service set forth in claim 16, wherein, when there is no access to an electric album for more than a given period of time by a user having recorded image data, image data recorded onto the data storage area is erased.

20. (Withdrawn) The method for providing the electric album service set forth in claim 16, wherein, when there is no access to an electric album for more than a given period

of time by a user including a third party other than the user having recorded image data, image data recorded onto the data storage area is erased.

21. (Withdrawn) A method for providing an electric album service comprising:

- a step to record registration information including at least authentication information about an electric album user sent from the electric album user;
- a step to store image data sent from the electric album user onto a data storage area;
- a step to read out image data in response to the authentication information sent from the electric album user;
- a step to transmit this data to the electric album user;
- a step to record management information that classifies image data into a given group;
- a step to read out image data per the given group by use of management information; and
- a step to transmit this data to a manager of the electric album.

22. (Withdrawn) A method for providing an electric album service comprising:

- a step to record registration information including at least authentication information about an electric album user sent from the electric album user;
- a step to store image data sent from the electric album user onto a data storage area;
- a step to read out image data from the data storage area of the electric album user when authentication information agrees with recorded authentication information;
- a step to transmit this data to the electric album user;
- a step to read out image data sequentially;

a step to extract shooting information included in each of image data sequentially; and

a step to transmit extracted shooting information to a manager of the electric album.

23. (Withdrawn) A method for providing an electric album service comprising:

a step to record registration information including at least authentication information of an electric album user sent from the electric album user;

a step to give a random name different from those of other image data to image data sent from the electric album user;

a step to record image data with the given name onto a data storage area;

a step to read out image data from the data storage area of the electric album user when authentication information agrees with recorded authentication information; and

a step to transmit image data to the electric album user.

24. (Withdrawn) A method for providing an electric album service comprising:

a step to record image data sent from an electric album user onto a data storage area;

a step to provide image data for a browse on demand for a browse during a predetermined period of time;

a step to detect whether or not an electric album user purchasing a product has already completed a customer registration of the product; and

a step to extend a predetermined usable period of time of the electric album when the customer registration has been completed.

25. (Withdrawn) A method for providing an electric album service comprising:

a step to record image data sent from an electric album user onto a data storage area of a predetermined capacity;

a step to provide image data for a browse on demand for a browse;

a step to detect whether or not an electric album user purchasing a product has already completed a customer registration of the product; and

a step to enlarge a capacity of the data storage area when the customer registration has been completed.